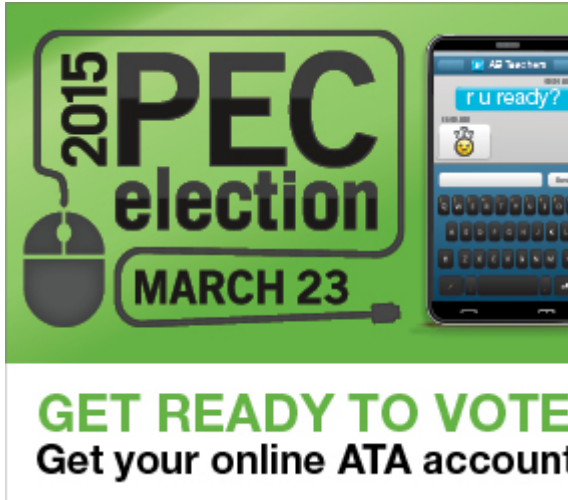


Central East District Representative Report December 2014

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DR Meeting Dates: Dec. 4-5: Provincial Executive Council Dec. 4: Lakeland Catholic LC Dec. 8: Park Plains East Exec Dec. 9: Greater St. Paul LC Dec. 10: Northern Lights LC Dec. 11: Northern Lights BUGM Dec. 17: Park Plains East LC Jan. 6: Battle River Exec Jan 7: EPC Jan. 8: Lakeland Catholic LC Jan 13: Greater St. Paul LC	Important Dates: Christmas Holidays!: Dec. 20 – Jan. 4 January Provincial Executive Council: Jan. 15 – 16 NorthEast Teachers' Convention: Feb. 12 – 13 Cut off to apply for alternative PD during convention: Jan. 1 (NETCA)	

December Provincial Executive Council 2014 12 04 - 05

Professional Development

- 913 teachers attended Beginning Teachers' Conference - well received by all. New teachers were able to sign up for their choice of specialist council at this event.
- How will we promote specialist councils at conventions? Only 30% of our membership holds a council membership.
- Symposium: The Development of Teacher Efficacy Through Professional Learning was well attended. Findings: that collaboration and choice by teachers in their professional learning has a positive influence on the efficacy of teachers.
- SLA implementation and support for teachers' conclusions: not achieved in a timely manner, student experience varied, technology failures, lack of understanding of questions. How will results be presented to teachers and parents were hot topics of the SLA experience with Tim Coates, representative from Alberta Education at PDAC. SLAs have tried to do everything - performance, digital, standardize and they have been heavily politicized.

➔ Link to leave feedback:

<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/News%20Room/WebExtras/Pages/SLA-Implementation.aspx>

➔ Link to release of data article

<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/News%20Room/WebExtras/Pages/Government-to-Release-SLA-Data-to-Teachers.aspx>

- Curriculum - department is in the dark about government direction and it is soldiering on. The website has been “purged” and prototyping partnerships are proceeding. The Minister’s mandate letter included these: a basics focus, revisit curriculum changes, and updates on mathematics curriculum.
- Schools districts have individual requirements for criminal record checks and these are inconsistent. Employment with criminal record occurs on a case-by-case basis.

Government

- Our association is 1200 members up while we had anticipated 500 new members (September ‘13 - ‘14). This results in a need to increase staffing - possibly by three executive staff officers. (Have thirty-one ESO.)
- Lens on the Alberta Government: flat tax, no royalty increases, no sales tax, a government that is leaning to the right - is there any money for education? Common sense, decency and austerity are Prentice’s catch words.
- We have brought equity to active and associate members by providing a complimentary specialist council membership to associate members on whose behalf we bargain.
- Mike Kischuk is retiring. He will be sorely missed.
- Dr. Bernie Keeler, former president and executive secretary, is in failing health.
- Jason Schilling, District Representative, convocated with his Master’s Degree and Lindsay Yakimyshyn, intermediate staff, convocated with her Doctor of Philosophy degree, each from the University of Alberta this past month.
- We are developing a series of policies from the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Inclusive Education in Alberta Schools.
- Comforting: Minister Dirks begins his thoughts/actions in education by thinking of teachers as teachers! This has not happened for Alberta teachers in a very long time.
- Bills of importance: A) Bill 3 PIPA unconstitutional so government must deal with it. B) Bill 202 & 10 - 202 mandate creation of gay-straight alliances where students request it. Bill 10: students to appeal to courts if a district denied an alliance. Bill 10 superseded Bill 202 because Bill 10 achieved second reading prior to Bill 202. President Ramsankar issued a release. And then the premier announced that Bill 10 has been put on hold citing a desire to “get it right” and not make gay and lesbian students the centre of this.

➔ <http://www.teachers.ab.ca/News%20Room/News%20Releases/2014/Pages/ATA-President-Applauds-Delay-on-Bill-10.aspx>

- DPE weighting: ASBA passed a motion to reduce it to 30% while we have held a policy for 25 years that the weight be 20%. Potential Xmas present of an announcement from government regarding this
- We have spent \$704 000 in our media campaign thus far. Target of the campaign is parents and the public. Thoughts on the media campaign?
- Stats on Third-Party Study on Teacher Workload Advisory Committee. This is Malatest. 7000 weeks of valid data achieved by the end of October. Cannot water down this study because we need good data to verify the issues regarding workload for teachers. We know that participating in the survey creates workload.
- C2 Stop Light Chart - summary of joint C2 collaborative dialogue sessions is available on the website.
- SLA: Alberta Assessment Consortium sent a very effective letter to Minister Dirks regarding serious validity, design and implementation issues, and the flawed process, especially the consideration to release results, of SLAs. AAC is an amalgam of Alberta and outside of province educational institutions representatives and has deep credibility within AB. The original intent of SLAs was to provide resources to teachers, but it has crept into gathering data for school and system reporting. Communication to superintendents of the historical overview is a victory.
- Ebola crisis in West Africa: we will donate \$3500 to support teachers affected by the Ebola crisis.
- Special Education Council requested a name change. It shall be called Council for Inclusive Education.
- We will make a charity donation to the Alberta Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association.
- Upgrades to SARO - there is a committee to investigate their building needs.
- Electronic voting 2015 PEC Elections: Create an account, Register to vote (for appropriate district), Link to discrete site (for secret ballot purpose) to VOTE!

Member Services

- ✓ Popular member services presentations: Dealing with Difficult People and Issues, E-Liability, Student Teachers Acting Professional in Schools.
- ✓ Call trends: interpersonal relations, employment information, and employer action.
- ✓ Use of medical leave to dodge circumstances is a misconception. Rather, members often find accusations and investigations stressful, are sick prior to circumstance arising and/or the circumstance adds to the illness of a teacher.

Teacher Welfare

- Process for mid-term bargaining has been communicated to EPCs.
- Will collective agreements be finalized before midterm bargaining begins? Oh yes. There are twenty-eight outstanding.
- An exception granted does not mean a free card for a jurisdiction to continually be granted an exception.
- Teachers who are teaching over 907 need to contact their principal and teacher welfare.
- Denial of sick leave may be considered a human rights complaint.
- Boards are obligated to pay the early retiree benefit premiums where a retired teacher has accepted a teaching contract.
- Who signs a local collective agreement? Either the local president or EPC chair but Sandra Johnston's signature must be used.
- Pension defense campaign is in its second of four legs. Reprints of four articles are available from me on request.
- ASEBP: see website and apps. ASEBP (a benefit and welfare trust) is a leader in benefit coverage. Wellness: for every \$1 spent in these initiatives, there is a savings of \$9!

ATA Elections 2015: Ensure you can vote!

Create your ATA on-line account by visiting www.teachers.ab.ca and following the "login" link at the top of the page. You will need your Alberta Teacher Certificate Number.

You can access your # from your certificate by calling the ATA (1 800 232 7208) and asking for the membership desk, by contacting Alberta Education Teaching & Learning Excellence (310 0000 or teacher.certification@gov.ab.ca), or by calling the HR department of your jurisdiction.

Besides allowing you to vote, creating an ATA account allows you to:

- ❖ Choose a free membership in a specialist council of your choosing,
- ❖ Access "members only" content of the ATA website,
- ❖ Participate in collaboration websites maintained by the association,
- ❖ Update your personal profile ensuring uninterrupted service from your association.

Here are the percentages of teachers who have an ATA account: Aspen View (of 235) 69%; Battle River (of 528) 56%; Greater Saint Paul (of 374) 77%; Lakeland Catholic (of 144) 67%; Northern Lights (of 373) 70%; Park Plains East (of 546) 64%

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS: Twelve!

Enjoy a peaceful Christmas season, Elaine ☺